

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Amended) A method comprising:
forming a tungsten plug in a dielectric layer;
forming an electrically conductive interconnect line on the dielectric layer after formation
of the tungsten plug, wherein the tungsten plug is electrically connected to the
electrically conductive interconnect line;
introducing a gas into a liquid;
discharging the tungsten plug by contacting the electrically conductive interconnect line
with the gas introduced liquid after formation of the electrically conductive
interconnect line;
contacting the electrically conductive interconnect line with a solution to remove residual
polymer after the electrically conductive interconnect line is contacted with the
gas introduced liquid.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pH of the liquid is reduced by
introducing the gas into it.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gas introduced liquid has a pH that
is less than neutral.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the pH of the gas introduced liquid is
greater than 3.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid is made more electrolytic by introducing the gas into it.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid comprises water.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the liquid is deionized before the gas is introduced into it.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein contacting the electrically conductive interconnect line with the gas introduced liquid comprises spraying the electrically conductive interconnect line with the gas introduced liquid.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 A method comprising:
forming a tungsten plug in a dielectric layer;
forming an electrically conductive interconnect line on the dielectric layer after formation
of the tungsten plug, wherein the tungsten plug is electrically connected to the
electrically conductive interconnect line;
introducing a gas into a liquid;
discharging the tungsten plug by contacting the electrically conductive interconnect line
with the gas introduced liquid after formation of the electrically conductive
interconnect line;
wherein introducing the gas into the liquid further comprises:
the gas flowing into a first chamber;
the liquid flowing into a second chamber, wherein the first and second chambers are separated by a porous membrane;
the gas flowing into the first chamber passing into the second chamber via the porous membrane and dissolving into the liquid in the second chamber.

12. – 20 (Withdrawn)

21. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide.

22. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the gas introduced liquid has a pH that is less than neutral.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the pH of the gas introduced liquid is greater than 3.

24. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the liquid comprises water.